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ANNUAL REPORT

on the

HEALTH AND SANITARY
CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE
BOROUGH OF WEYMOUTH
AND MELCOMBE REGIS FOR
THE YEAR 1952

E. J. GORDON WALLACE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health



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Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

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Chief Sanitary Inspector :

H. HANDSCOMB, M.R.S.I.

District Sanitary Inspectors :


R. G. S. NEWBOULD, M.S.I.A.

A. L. HARRIS, M.S.I.A.

Clerical Staff :

Mr. F. H. HOUSE

Miss M. STEELE



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HEALTH CENTRE,
WESTHAM ROAD,
WEYMOUTH
June, 1953

**To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration my Report for the year 1952 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.

It can be said that 1952 was a healthy year with a low incidence of notifiable infectious disease, the lowest death rate since the Comparability Factor was re-introduced in 1949, and the lowest Infant Mortality Rate ever recorded for the Borough.

Yet another year has gone by without a single case of diphtheria being notified but in this Report I have thought it advisable to stress the extreme importance of every baby being immunised against diphtheria. The almost complete elimination of this disease may be regarded as one of the triumphs of preventive medicine—but our freedom in this respect can be safeguarded only by a constant vigilance. This may be difficult to maintain when the danger of infection is not immediately apparent.

The breeding of midges in Radipole Lake was ended by the introduction into the Lake of salt water from the Harbour side of the Westham Embankment bridge and it was again possible for residents and visitors alike to enjoy the amenities of the Radipole Park Gardens without being annoyed by clouds of midges. The salt water, however, brought with it into the Lake a coral formation caused by a worm—*Mercierella Enigmatica*, and discussions are now going on as to how the competing claims can be met for eliminating both the midges and the mercierella.

I have thought it advisable to set out in some detail extracts from the joint report prepared by Mr. Clinch and myself on the drainage of Lodmoor to end mosquito breeding in this large expanse of marsh land. The joint report shows quite clearly that this problem is capable of solution, but it will require to be tackled energetically over a period of years.

My Annual Report also deals with the many other activities of the Public Health Department—work that seldom comes into the limelight but which nevertheless must be kept going efficiently to maintain the health of the community. The detailed day to day supervision of this work is in the capable hands of Mr. Harold Handcomb, Chief Sanitary Inspector, whose sound technical

knowledge, enthusiasm and excellent grasp of "public relations" have been of inestimable value.

I am again happy to place on record my appreciation of the co-operation in the work of the Department afforded by my professional colleagues in practice in the Borough.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the Council for their kindness and consideration, and my fellow officials and the Health Department staff for their unfailing assistance throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

E. J. GORDON WALLACE,

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) excluding 331 acres of tidal water	7,007
Mid-year Home Population (estimated by the Registrar General)	36,830
Estimated Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1952)	11,600
Rateable Value (31st March, 1952)	£333,016
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (1952-53)	£1,352

CHIEF INDUSTRIES & EXTENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT

I am indebted to Mr. N. A. Pick, Manager of the Weymouth Employment Exchange, for the following information :—

Registered Wholly Unemployed Persons

	1950			1951			1952		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
March	170	211	381	126	161	287	78	141	219
June	121	73	194	41	52	93	46	38	84
September	79	46	125	44	57	101	54	46	100
December	152	153	305	96	162	258	137	163	300

The main occupations in this area are :—

Building and Civil Engineering
 Local and National Government Services
 Engineering
 Distributive
 Hotel and Catering
 Transport
 Shipping and Ship Repairing
 Railways
 Laundries
 Breweries

Bakeries
 Radio Making Equipment
 Electrical and Scientific Instrument Making.
 Agriculture
 Garages

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF BOROUGH SUPPLIED BY REGISTRAR GENERAL FOR 1952.

Total Births—590.

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population—16.01

Comparability Factor—1.00

Standardised Birth Rate—16.01

Live Births—584

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	285	267	552
Illegitimate	...	20	12	32
		—	—	—
Total	...	305	279	584
		—	—	—

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population—15.85

Stillbirths—6.

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	2	4	6
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
		—	—	—
Total	...	2	4	6
		—	—	—

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 estimated population—0.16

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births—10.16

Deaths—418. Males—211. Females—207.

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population—11.34

Comparability Factor—0.81

Standardised Death Rate—9.18

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age.

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	3	4	7
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
		—	—	—
Total	...	3	4	7
		—	—	—

Infant Mortality Rates.

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	11.98
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	12.67
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	—
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	6.84
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	Nil

TOTAL DEATHS 1952. (Registrar General's Official Returns)

All Causes—418. Males—211. Females—207.

Cause of Death.			Males	Females
1.	Tuberculosis—Respiratory	...	3	1
2.	Tuberculosis—Other	...	...	...
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	1	...
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...
8.	Measles	...	...	...
9.	Other Infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	6	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	9	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	8
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	15	17
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	2
16.	Diabetes	...	1	...
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	36	39
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	51	38
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	2	4
20.	Other heart disease	...	27	42
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	5	9
22.	Influenza	...	...	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	2	5
24.	Bronchitis	...	9	5
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	1	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	5	...
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	5	...
30.*	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	1
31.	Congenital malformations	...	1	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	21	20
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	1	1
34.	All other accidents	...	5	3
35.	Suicide	...	3	...
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...
TOTAL			211	207

* The interval between the maternal condition and this death exceeded 12 months.

S.D.55.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case-rates for certain infectious diseases in the year 1952. Provisional Figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	160 C.B's. and Great Towns including London	160 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000-50,000 at 1951 Census	London Admin. County
	Rates per 1,000 Home Population :—			
Births :				
Live Births ...	15.3	16.9	15.5	17.6
Still Births ...	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.34
	22.6 (a)	24.6 (a)	23.0 (a)	19.2 (a)
Deaths :—				
All Causes ...	11.3	12.1	11.2	12.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis ...	0.24	0.28	0.22	0.31
Influenza ...	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05
Smallpox ...	0.00	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (incl. Polioence- phalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Pneumonia ...	0.47	0.52	0.43	0.58
Notifications :— (Corrected)				
Typhoid Fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Meningococcal Infection ...	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Scarlet Fever ...	1.53	1.75	1.58	1.56
Whooping Cough	2.61	2.74	2.57	1.66
Diphtheria ...	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01
Erysipelas ...	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.14
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles ...	8.86	10.11	8.49	9.23
Pneumonia ...	0.72	0.80	0.62	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis (incl. Polioence- phalitis)				
Paralytic ...	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
Non-Paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Food Poisoning	0.13	0.16	0.11	0.18
Puerperal pyrexia	17.87 (a)	23.94 (a)	10.22 (a)	30.77 (a)
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—			
Deaths :—				
All causes under 1 year of age ...	27.6 (b)	31.2	25.8	23.8
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age ...	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.7

(a) Per 1,000 Total (live and still) births.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales

Intermediate List No. and cause	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
A.115 Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium.	61	0.09	—
A.116 { Abortion with toxæmia.	13	0.02	1
{ Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium.	147	0.21	—
A.117 Haemorrhage of preg- nancy and childbirth.	59	0.09	—
A.118 Abortion without men- tion of sepsis or tox- æmia.	31	0.04	3
A.119 Abortion with sepsis.	47	0.07	5
A.120 Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium.	138	0.20	—

COMMENTS ON THE VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth Rate.

The birth rate of 16.01 is very slightly higher than that of the preceding year (15.39).

Live births exceeded the number of deaths by 166.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths was 418—211 males and 207 females—giving a crude death rate of 11.34 per 1,000 population. By applying the Comparability Factor (0.81) the Standardised Death Rate is found to be 9.18. This compares favourably with the standardised death rate for the previous year (11.39 per 1000). (The Comparability Factor is worked out for each district by the Registrar General. Its object is to level out differences in the age and sex constitution of the population of the various districts and its use enables us to obtain standardised death rates which are more fairly comparable and more accurate than the crude death rates).

There were no deaths from the common infectious diseases and no maternal deaths.

The Infant Mortality Rate of 11.98 per 1,000 live births is the lowest which has ever been recorded in the Borough. This is an achievement in which justifiable pride may be taken by those

responsible for supervising the health of young babies—the mothers themselves, the doctors and particularly the Health Visitors whose educational work in the homes and at the Welfare Centres is of the greatest value.

Four of the seven infant deaths took place during the neo-natal period, i.e. under four weeks of age.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

So far as notifiable infectious diseases were concerned, it was a quiet year. Once more measles headed the list with 135 notifications, the great majority of the cases occurring in the first half of the year.

Whooping cough came next with 90 notifications, the greatest incidence being in the June and September quarters.

There were 18 notifications of Scarlet Fever, all the cases being of a mild nature.

Two paralytic and four non-paralytic cases of acute poliomyelitis were also notified.

Once again I would remind parents that—when polio' is about—unnecessary gatherings of children should be avoided. One should also avoid becoming unduly fatigued, as exhausting physical exercise—by children and adults alike—is apt to precipitate infection and to cause more extensive paralysis.

Diphtheria

I hope that within the next few years it will be possible to omit any reference to Diphtheria in this Annual Report. For a number of years now it has been possible to report each time that another year has gone by without a case of diphtheria being notified.

The great majority of parents are sensible enough to realise that immunisation has given us this freedom from what was once a deadly peril to young lives, but this very freedom from danger is causing a minority of parents to neglect their defences.

We get a good idea of the state of immunity from information collected at the Routine Medical Inspection of school children. During 1952, a total of 1725 children were so inspected in South Dorset, of these 1683, i.e. all but 42, were found to be immunised. This percentage of 97.5 seems high and is probably not exceeded elsewhere in the country but it is lower than the 98.8% recorded during the routine medical inspection of school children in 1947.

Parents should realise too, that it is most important to maintain their children's immunity throughout school life. This is done by one "reinforcing" or "booster" injection every four or five years.

Local Government (Superannuation) Act, 1937

During the year seventeen entrants into the Corporation employ were medically examined as to their fitness for inclusion in the Superannuation Scheme.

Laboratory Facilities

The County Laboratory at Dorchester under the direction of Dr. T. V. Cooper and the separate Public Health Laboratory there under Dr. G. H. Tee have given every possible assistance in the work of the Health Department.

INFESTATION.

Scabies and Head Infestation.

The tables which follow show that there has been an increase in the number of Scabies cases dealt with while the incidence of Head Infestation has fallen.

It will be remembered that Scabies is a notifiable disease in this Borough.

SCABIES

Year	Total No. notified	No. Notified by Practitioner	No. Notified by Public Health Dept.	Total Number of Treatments (incl. contacts)
1943	618	218	400	2187
1944	598	124	474	1882
1945	275	72	203	1078
1946	198	63	135	992
1947	80	32	48	599
1948	71	23	48	241
1949	26	6	20	67
1950	30	7	23	54
1951	9	3	6	15
1952	16	6	10	25

In addition four patients from the Dorchester Rural District and eight from the Portland Urban District were treated, nine treatments being given in each instance.

HEAD INFESTATION

Year	Number of Infested Persons	Adult	School	Under 5	Total No. of Treatments
1944	594	148	411	35	894
1945	305	87	283	35	405
1946	310	117	203	40	461
1947	164	40	96	28	304
1948	143	19	110	14	266
1949	106	13	80	13	197
1950	109	20	71	18	173
1951	99	11	78	10	184
1952	70	6	60	4	83

Notifiable Diseases, other than Tuberculosis, during 1952

DISEASE	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 plus	Unknown
Scarlet Fever	8	9	...	1	18	...	...	2	14	2	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	10	43	34	3	90	14	14	27	33	...	...	1	1
Ac. Poliomyelitis : Paralytic	..	...	...	2	2	...	...	1	...	..	...	1	...
Non-Paralytic	...	...	3	1	4	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...
Measles	89	33	9	4	135	5	14	41	71	...	1	1	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...

DISEASE	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total	Under 5	5-14	15-44	45-64	65 and over	Unknown
Ac. Pneumonia	13	6	4	13	36	4	2	11	6	6	7
Dysentery
Smallpox
Ac. Encephalitis : Infective
Post-infectious
Enteric or Typhoid
Paratyphoid fevers
Erysipelas	4	...	4	...	...	1	2	...	1
Meningococcal Infection	2	..	2	1	1	..	...	..	...
Food Poisoning	...	1	3	...	4	...	...	1	2	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	10	12	6	32	...	...	..	...	...	32
Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Verminous Premises

Verminous premises are treated with suitable liquid and powder insecticide and, where necessary, articles of clothing and bedding are treated in the Department's steam disinfectant plant.

Facilities remained available at the Health Centre for personal cleansing and as far as possible the treatment of persons, their clothing and premises has been carried out at one time.

The number of houses disinfested was 37, which is three less than in the previous year. I am pleased to say that all infestations were of a minor character.

There was a considerable increase in the number of articles disinfested (1608 as against 540 in 1951). This was due to the disinfestation of more than 1000 blankets from an organised tented camp where a minor flea infestation had been encountered in the summer.

I am glad to record that infestations of bed bugs seem now to be a thing of the past in this Borough and only one minor infestation from bed bugs was reported and dealt with during the year.

Food Poisoning

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year but four sporadic cases were reported and investigated. Unfortunately in all four cases no specimens of suspected foods were available for bacteriological examination and the one specimen of faeces examined did not provide evidence of any food poisoning organisms.

All the four persons affected were not seriously ill and made rapid recoveries.

Humane Killer for Cats and Dogs

The apparatus supplied by the R.S.P.C.A. has operated satisfactorily throughout the year. It is interesting to note that the number of animals dealt with during the year was 375, which is 85 less than the previous year and 192 less than the figure for 1950.

The service is very useful to the Town and I must record my appreciation of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the continued loan of the apparatus.

Details of animals dealt with during 1952 are as follows :—

Dogs	...	...	126
Cats	...	...	249
			<hr/>
Total	...		375
			<hr/>

Pet Animals Act, 1951

This Act came into operation on the 1st April, 1952. It provides that no person shall keep a Pet Shop unless he holds a licence granted in accordance with the Act.

In deciding whether to grant a licence a Local Authority must have regard to the need for securing :—

- (a) that animals will at all times be kept in accommodation suitable as respects size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness ;
- (b) that animals will be adequately supplied with suitable food and drink and (so far as necessary) visited at suitable intervals ;
- (c) that animals, being mammals, will not be sold at too early an age ;
- (d) that all reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent the spread among animals of infectious diseases ;
- (e) that appropriate steps will be taken in case of fire or other emergency.

The Local Authority must also specify such conditions in the licence as appear necessary to secure the objects mentioned above.

The Act also prohibits the sale of animals as pets in a street or public place except at a stall or barrow in a market. The sale of animals as pets to persons under twelve years of age is also prohibited.

In view of the nature of the Act, and bearing in mind that the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was instrumental in bringing the Act into being, I felt that it would be appropriate and in the interests of the Town Council if the Society's Local Inspector could be appointed as one of the Council's Authorised Officers under the Act. The Town Council agreed to this suggestion and Mr. F. Horner, Local Inspector for the R.S.P.C.A., was appointed an honorary officer of the Corporation and included as one of the Corporation's authorised officers under the Act in addition to the Medical Officer of Health, Chief Sanitary Inspector and two District Sanitary Inspectors.

During the year two applications for licences to keep pet shops were received and approved. Appropriate conditions were attached to both licences.

The number of inspections carried out during the year under the provisions of the Pet Animals Act, 1951, was 16.

Mortuary

The Town Mortuary, in Commercial Road, continued to be used as a Mortuary and Post Mortem Room but use was also made of the better facilities for post mortem examinations at the Weymouth and District Hospital.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

Under this Act, and the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, the Town Council is empowered to take steps to secure the removal to suitable accommodation of persons in need of care and attention. During 1952 it was not necessary to take any statutory action but four cases had to be kept under review.

In the first case, an elderly lady, admitted to an Institution following statutory action in the previous year, did not oppose the second application to the Court for an extension of the order detaining her in the Institution and, as she gave up the tenancy of her house, she remained in the Institution.

In the second case, an elderly man living alone, periodical visits were made but he eventually had an accident at home which resulted in his being sent to hospital. He was later transferred from hospital to an Institution where he remained, as he realised that he could no longer look after himself and so gave up the tenancy of his house.

The two remaining cases did not call for statutory action and periodical visits were made to their homes.

In all, 17 routine visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors to houses where elderly persons were living alone in order to ascertain whether any action by the Medical Officer of Health might be necessary under the above Acts.

WATER SUPPLY

The water in the Borough is provided by the Weymouth Waterworks Company, the main supplies being from springs at Empool and Sutton Poyntz. The water being fairly hard does not give rise to danger from Plumbo-solvent action, and both quality and quantity have been satisfactorily maintained throughout the year. No outbreaks of illness which could be traced to the water have occurred and it may be said that the supply continues to be very good for drinking and domestic purposes and shows a high degree of purity.

The closest co-operation is maintained with the Engineer and Manager, Mr. S. E. Barrett, A.M.Inst.C.E., and there is constant exchange of the results of samples taken by the Company and Health Department Officers.

SUMMARY OF BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES

Total Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory
51	51	Nil	Nil

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

Sample taken on 25th August, 1952.

Fountain, Empool Sutton Poyntz
Pumping Station Spring
(Before Chlorination)

Physical Examination :

Colour	...	None	None
Appearance	...	Clear	Clear

General Chemical Examination :

Reaction	...	pH 7.02	pH 7.43
		Parts per Million	
Free Carbon Dioxide		26	10
Free and Saline Ammonia		Less than .005	Less than .005
Albuminoid Ammonia		Less than .005	Less than .005
Chlorine (as Chlorides)		21	22.5
equivalent to Sodium			
Chlorides	...	35	37
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs.)		0.08	0.10
Nitrite	...	absent	absent
Nitrogen in Nitrate	...	4.1	4.2
Total solids	...	330	285
Loss on ignition	...	10	15
Appearance on ignition		No charring	No charring
Hardness :			
Temporary	...	225	180
Permanent	..	28	20
Total	..	253	200
Lead and Copper	...	absent	absent

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The greater part of the Borough is served by sewer but there is a large area in Preston, Sutton Poyntz, Overcombe and Bowleaze where main drainage is not available.

The Town Council resolved some years ago that the erection of new dwellings should not be permitted in these districts until main drainage had been provided.

I mentioned in my Reports for 1950 and 1951 that the drainage scheme for these districts was in course of preparation

by the Consulting Engineers to the Town Council and was submitted to the Ministry of Local Government and Planning in October, 1951.

The scheme received further attention in 1952 and the Ministry informed the Town Council that, if after public advertisement of the proposed scheme there were no serious objections, it might then not be necessary to hold a Public Enquiry into the matter. The scheme was subsequently advertised in the Press.

The need for the Preston drainage scheme becomes more urgent every year and, when the necessary authority for the scheme to proceed is received, it is to be hoped that the Town Council will take all necessary steps to ensure that the scheme is carried out in the shortest possible time.

Sewage from the remainder of the Borough is disposed of by pumping to a sea outfall. The main pumps are situated at Westham. Quite a large number of cesspools are still in use in areas where main sewers are already available and efforts continue to be made to abolish these cesspools and to arrange for connection of house drains to the main sewers.

During the year I am pleased to say that 30 cesspools and six earth closets were eliminated and this resulted in 41 houses being connected to the main sewers.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION IN BOROUGH

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Total number of houses in the Borough ...	...	...	11,600
Number of houses served by cesspools (approx.)	...	...	738
Number of cesspools (approx.)	...	...	486
Number of pail closets (approx.)	...	...	221

PARTICULARS OF CONVERSION FROM CONSERVANCY TO MAIN DRAINAGE SYSTEM DURING 1952

Number of premises converted	...	...	...	41
Number of cesspools abolished	...	...	...	30
Number of earth closets abolished	...	...	...	6

HOUSING

(a) Unfit Houses

The acute housing shortage was still very much in evidence during the year and for that reason statutory action with regard to sub-standard houses was again restricted. Complaints with regard to leaking roofs, dampness in walls, defective floors, and similar urgent matters were all dealt with, generally under the provisions of Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and in most instances owners of houses co-operated and dealt with the urgent items of repair brought to their notice.

I must again record my concern regarding the very many sub-standard houses in the Borough which deteriorate more each year and, sooner or later, will have to be demolished. Every Local Authority in the country is faced with this problem but full scale action with regard to demolition and clearance of unfit houses must still wait until the serious housing shortage is overcome.

During the year, No. 64 Sutton Road, Preston, was represented as an individual unfit house under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. The Town Council later accepted an undertaking from the owner that the house would not be used for human habitation until it had been made fit for this purpose.

Nos. 23 and 25 Chamberlain Road, Wyke Regis, were also represented as individual unfit houses during the year. The owners gave undertakings early in 1953 that the houses would not be used for human habitation until they had been made fit for this purpose.

Nos. 2 and 3 Crescent Court, Crescent Street, which were subject to a Clearance Order made on the 24th August, 1934, were represented as individual unfit houses during 1951 and were demolished during 1952.

Nos. 13, 15, 17 and 19 High Street, Wyke Regis, became unoccupied and were demolished during the year. These houses were subject to demolition orders made during the previous year. All the occupiers were re-housed by the Corporation.

Nos. 56 and 58 High Street, Wyke Regis, which were subject to demolition orders made in 1938 were also demolished. Arrangements for demolition and clearance were made by the Corporation at the request of the owner who met the cost of the works.

HOUSING ACT, 1936

Position at 31st December, 1952

Premises	Still occupied as dwellings	Used as Stores or work-places	Vacant	Total
Houses subject to Demolition or Clearance Orders not yet demolished	5	18	8	31
Parts of Buildings subject to Closing Orders	—	6	1	7
Houses subject to U/D not to re-let for human habitation	1	—	8	9
Houses subject to U/D to make fit	1	—	—	1

(b) Applications for Re-housing

A considerable amount of time is spent each year in the investigation of claims by housing applicants for priority recommendations on grounds of ill health and overcrowding.

During 1952 this work increased considerably and 432 visits were made to applicants' houses. Each visit necessitated a written report and from the large number of visits made one can assess the tremendous amount of time allocated to this work during 1952.

In the previous year 331 such visits were made and in 1950 the figure was 224.

MOSQUITO AND MIDGE CONTROL

(1) Radipole Lake

Although mosquito breeding to a lesser degree has for some years taken place in Radipole Lake, the main difficulty in the past few years has been caused by small midges of the genus *chironomus* which have created considerable annoyance to visitors to the gardens and tennis courts in Radipole Park Drive. The nuisance was perhaps at its worst for many years during 1950. In the summer of 1951, after the water in the lake had been held at a higher level, there appeared to be a slight reduction in numbers but there were no indications that the nuisance could be entirely eradicated by keeping the mud banks permanently under water.

In January, 1952, I wrote to the Department of Entomology of the British Museum on this subject and asked what effect the introduction of sea water might have on the *chironomus* midge. In reply I was sent a very interesting account of how a plague of midges of the genus *Chironomus* Meiben which occurred in a lake at Port Elizabeth, South Africa, had been entirely eliminated by increasing the sodium chloride content of the water by pumping in sea water and adding chlorides. From the results obtained in South Africa it was proved that a chloride content of 4.81 per cent. was lethal to the midges and the minimum percentage to ensure no breeding was ascertained to be 3 per cent.

As the sodium chloride content of sea water is a little above 3 per cent. it appeared possible to introduce sea water through the Westham Bridge sluices at periods of high tide and if the salinity of the water in Radipole Lake could be brought up to 3 per cent. then breeding could be prevented.

I sought advice from experts on the probable effect upon fish, bird and plant life in the lake and was satisfied that such an experiment would not have any detrimental effect. The experiment was authorised and commenced early in February, 1952.

In order to obtain the maximum degree of salinity in the lake the Borough Engineer so arranged that as much fresh water as possible was discharged from the lake before sea water was admitted.

The maximum degree of salinity found on the harbour side of Westham Bridge was 3.081 and so it was realised that dilution with fresh water left in the lake would not permit the 3 per cent. salinity hoped for unless chlorides could be added artificially to the water.

Seven sampling points were selected in Radipole Lake, and, after the admission of sea water, samples were taken for chemical examination at intervals during February and March.

Results of the chemical examinations were not, however, quite as expected and the maximum percentage of sodium chloride found in any one sample was 2.540, at a point in the lake on the western side of the new causeway. After draining sea water away from the lake some samples showed as little as .003 per cent. whereas when flooded a little time previously the reading had been 2.47 per cent. These results were not encouraging but the draining away of fresh water and refilling with sea water was continued throughout the summer.

Observations for midges were kept during the summer evenings and the results were quite remarkable. Whereas in the previous two summers the whole area of the lake had been alive with midges, in the summer of 1952 they were noticeably absent. A few mosquitoes and other insects were, of course, in evidence but the plague of previous summers had almost vanished.

Events were noted with quiet satisfaction until one hot day in July when other investigations were being carried out in the lake, a stolen bicycle was found in the reeds with its wheels and part of its frame under water. When removed it was found that all the parts which had been under water were covered with what appeared to be a coral growth. Further examinations showed similar deposits of coral on the stones in the water along the new causeway and then a large culvert which had been fitted under water in the causeway during the spring was found to be almost entirely closed by the same coral growth.

The Borough Engineer sent samples to the British Museum and the worm responsible was soon identified as *Mercierella Enigmatica*, the presence of which had been first noted in the harbour in 1937.

A new situation had now unfortunately arisen—after it appeared that the midge problem had at last been solved. The rate of development of *mercierella enigmatica* was alarming and the Borough Engineer was very concerned regarding the possibility of it damaging culverts, sluices and marine vegetation. The

matter is being investigated fully by the British Museum authorities but the situation is of such importance that the Radipole Lake Development Committee has decided that further flooding of Radipole Lake with sea water will have to be discontinued in 1953.

It remains to be seen as to whether the control of the chironomus midge during 1952 has been such that little or no breeding will take place in 1953.

In closing my remarks with regard to the control of midges in Radipole Lake I must express my warmest thanks to Mr. A. S. Blatchford, M.Sc., F.R.I.C., of Weymouth, who voluntarily undertook all examinations of water samples for sodium chloride content—often at very short notice—and his interest in the progress of the experiment was much appreciated.

The raising of the water level in the lake during 1951 in an effort to control midges had a secondary effect as far as mosquitoes were concerned. The increased level of the lake rendered the drainage channels of Chafeys and Little Chafeys Lakes far less effective for the drainage of the surrounding marsh land and there was virtually no flow of water among the reeds of the various channels in the Lake. Conditions were therefore suitable for the re-establishment of the breeding of mosquitoes and there is little doubt that this contributed in some measure to the increase in the mosquito nuisance during 1951.

Early in 1952 an abundance of mosquito larvae was found in the swampy areas at the junction of Chafeys Lake and the western channel of Radipole Lake where they had previously been eliminated by local land drainage improvements. The Borough Engineer dealt with this area immediately by digging new drainage channels over the area so that all surface water quickly drained back to the main western channel in Radipole Lake. Further examinations of this marshy area made later in the year showed that measures had been entirely effective and no further evidence of mosquito breeding was found there.

I was also concerned with regard to the main western channel through the Lake as it appeared to be very sluggish and reed growths were obstructing the flow of water. This tended to prevent rapid drainage of the surrounding areas of marsh and might at a later date have encouraged the growth of mosquito larvae. The Borough Engineer subsequently undertook the dredging of the main western channel and this work was completed by the end of the year.

During the year the reeds in the Lake along Radipole Park Drive were removed for thatching purposes and this measure may also have been beneficial as the reed growth probably helps to form stagnant areas of water in which mosquitoes might have developed.

I mentioned in my Report for 1951 that a joint report by the Borough Engineer and myself on the mosquito problem in the Borough would be submitted during 1952. This report necessitated considerable investigation and research particularly by the Borough Engineer and the final report was presented to a joint meeting of the Health Committee and Radipole Lake Development Committee on the 10th July, 1952. Recommendations made in this report with regard to Radipole Lake were as follows :—

- “ (a) The main channel in Chafeys Lake, Little Chafeys Lake, the western channel and the upper reaches of the River Wey should be constantly maintained and dredged and kept free from weed and other obstruction.
- (b) The drainage of the marshy areas around the western channel and Chafeys and Little Chafeys Lakes should be improved by the addition of herringbone drains suitably located.
- (c) During the spring and summer of each year the greatest possible interchange of water with the Harbour should be encouraged to increase the salinity of the Lake if possible to 3 per cent.

It is emphasised that the maintenance of the main channels and the extension of herringbone drainage should be regarded as a continuing and annual maintenance operation.”

The Town Council approved these recommendations at their meeting held on the 31st July, 1952, but I must point out with regard to paragraph (c) above that this operation has been discontinued for the reasons already stated in connection with the appearance of *Mercierella Enigmatica*.

(2) Lodmoor

Progress was made in connection with the purchase of Lodmoor by the Corporation and Public Enquiries were held in connection with the purchase of two particular areas. At the end of the year there still remained a few areas where purchase had not been completed and it is to be hoped that formalities will be concluded during 1953.

The tipping of refuse in the south-western corner of this marsh continued during the winter months and good progress was made in filling the particularly marshy area behind Melcombe Avenue. During the summer tipping was transferred to a point on Lodmoor as distant from houses as possible and the Borough Engineer reported in June, 1952, that six acres of Lodmoor had then been filled and levelled. In the area of controlled tipping some small ponds found to be breeding mosquito larvae were either filled in or treated with oil during the summer.

Preliminary works to the sluice at Greenhill Gardens were carried out and the outfall pipe to the sea was cleared. An access chamber was provided on the outfall pipe allowing access for future clearing of the pipe so as to facilitate the draining away of water from Lodmoor.

The whole problem of mosquito breeding in Lodmoor was dealt with fully in the joint report to the Council by the Borough Engineer and myself. The following extracts from this report deal with the recommendations made for drainage of the area :

22. " The Borough Engineer has given consideration to the drainage of Lodmoor and has prepared preliminary proposals for dealing with it. The Medical Officer in his turn is certain that the only way in which the breeding of mosquitoes can be prevented is by an effective drainage scheme.
27. At the present time the whole of the drainage of Lodmoor reaches the sea by gravity through the two existing sluices, one at Toll House Cottage and the other at Sluice Gardens, but the whole of Lodmoor acts as a reservoir for the storage of surface water drainage during those periods when it is not possible to discharge the water in sufficient quantities by gravity to the sea. In order to effectively eliminate mosquito breeding it would be necessary to have a clear definition between the areas of dry land and areas which are permanently under water. It would, therefore, be necessary to provide a storage lake to receive surface water drainage at such times when it is not possible to discharge by gravity to the sea.
28. In considering the area necessary for such a storage lake, some consideration must first be given to the water levels to be permitted in the Lake. It is suggested that the outfall weir of the Lake should be fixed at minus 1.50 O.D. to provide for a possible rise of 2 ft. 6 in. to a maximum top water level of 1.00 O.D.

In considering the length of time over which storage would be required it is observed that the longest period of neap tides during which low water remains above the proposed weir level of minus 1.50 O.D. is seven days, during which time it remains above minus 1.00 O.D. for five days and above minus 0.50 O.D. for four days. The highest predicted low water is at approximately Ordnance Datum at Newlyn. The tide levels can be further adversely affected by continuous adverse winds, low barometric pressures and storm surges.

These predicted tides have been considered in relation to the records provided by the Borough Meteorological

Officer for rainfall, and in order to meet the storage requirement of the heaviest recorded rainfall during the longest period of extraordinary neap tides, it is estimated that a storage lake nine acres in extent would be required.

A new gravity outfall and tidal arm chamber would be required to discharge the water from the lake at suitable tides and it is estimated that the outfall should be 24 inches in diameter.

29. If the Lodmoor area immediately adjoining the Preston Road is to be ultimately utilised as park land, an extensive ornamental lake would prove an amenity in this open park, and I have provided my estimate on the basis of locating the lake as advantageously as possible in this park rather than choosing a situation which would provide an outfall at the cheapest possible cost.

My preliminary estimates for the lake and outfall are as follows :—

Excavation and formation of the lake	£12,000
The provision of the 24in. diameter outfall pipe, 430 yards in length, complete with tidal arm chamber	... £4,000
Total	... £16,000

30. The extremely high capital expenditure involved in the provision of a storage lake and gravity outfall has suggested that consideration should be given to an alternative scheme for pumping the surplus surface water to the sea, balancing the maintenance and pumping expenditure against the loan charges for this capital expenditure.

31. The most advantageous situation for this Pumping Station would be in the neighbourhood of Toll House Cottage, but in this position a three phase electricity supply is not available and additional expense would be involved in the provision of a transformer house and transformer. It is, therefore, suggested that the Pumping Station might be sited on the Sluice Garden outfall where a power supply could be made readily available by the Southern Electricity Board.

It should be noted that this alternative pumping scheme should be associated with works of repair at the Toll House Sluice and the Sluice Gardens outfall.

The Sluice at Toll House Cottage discharges water to the sea at low tide in a very satisfactory manner, but unfortunately at high water particularly of spring tides,

it admits considerable quantities of sea water back on to Lodmoor.

The outfall at Sluice Gardens, which is now owned by the Corporation is in an extremely bad condition. It is understood that the outfall pipes upon the beach were blown up as a defence measure during the World War II and these have never been reinstated. Considerable works of repair and cleansing are necessary in this position.

32. The preliminary estimate of the cost of the provision of a Pumping Station and sea outfall together with the installation of the existing Westham dry weather pumps, motors and switch gear and including works of repair on the existing Sluices is £4,800. The annual expenditure upon electrical energy is estimated at £70 but this item would fluctuate according to the rainfall in the year and the period at which the rainfall occurs.

34. If the Corporation were to adopt the gravity method of drainage based upon the storage lake or a pumping system it would still be necessary to carry out works in clearing the main drainage channels over the wide area of Lodmoor and improving the drainage to these channels. If this work were to be carried out in one operation, the cost would be of the order of £9,000.

Such works of drainage, however, must be regarded in Lodmoor, as in the Radipole Lake area, as a continuing operation. Drainage channels have not only to be provided but they must be progressively maintained and rather than suggest that the Corporation should embark upon a considerable capital scheme we recommend that the sum of £1,000 per annum should be spent on the maintenance of drainage works in the Radipole Lake and Lodmoor area and for the extension and improvement of these drainage works in a progressive manner.

Recommendations

Our recommendations in relation to the Lodmoor area are as follow :—

- (a) The drainage area from the Coombe Valley watershed should be separately drained to the sea.
- (b) The remaining area of Lodmoor should be provided with a drainage scheme based on either (a) a storage lake of nine acres, or (b) a pumping station to supplement the discharge of surface water by gravity.

- (c) The progressive extensions, improvement and maintenance of the drainage channels and ditches over the whole of the Lodmoor area.

35. Estimates.

(a) Based on a Storage Reservoir and Gravity Outfall

	Capital Costs	Annual Costs
i. Preston Road Outfall ... (Loan 30 years)	8,800	501
ii. Provision of Storage Lake and Outfall (Loan 30 years)	16,000	911
iii. General Drainage Works of Extension and Maintenance, Radipole Lake and Lodmoor		1,000
Totals ...	<u>£24,800</u>	<u>£2,412</u>

(b) Based on a Pumping Station

	Capital Costs	Annual Costs
i. Preston Road Outfall ... (Loan 30 years)	8,800	501
ii. Lodmoor Storm Pumping Station Outfall (Loan 30 years)	4,800	273
iii. Pumping Costs—Power ...		70
Maintenance		100
iv. General Drainage Works of Extension and Maintenance		1,000
Totals ...	<u>£13,600</u>	<u>£1,944</u>

Priorities

In considering the order in which works should be carried out it is recommended that those works should be first executed which would be immediately of greatest benefit to the area generally.

It is our view that the provision of £1,000 annually for general drainage works at Lodmoor and Radipole Lake should be brought into operation as early as possible. (Note—£500 has been provided in the current (1953-54) Annual Estimates of Expenditure.)

If the Pumping Station scheme is adopted the first step should be the provision of the Pumping Station at the estimated cost of £4,800 and the Preston Road outfall could be left for a later stage if this is thought desirable.

If the scheme based on the storage reservoir and gravity outfall is adopted, the first step should be the provision of the new gravity outfall even in advance of the construction of the lake. This is estimated to cost £4,000.

36. In conclusion we would emphasize that this Report is by nature of a preliminary survey of the situation. The schemes and the estimates have not been worked out in detail and it is desired at this stage to obtain guidance upon the general policy of the Council in order that work may proceed on a detailed scheme."

The foregoing recommendations were discussed very thoroughly at the joint meeting of the Health Committee and Radipole Lake Development Committee on the 10th July, 1952, and it was decided that the following recommendations should be placed before the Town Council.

- " (2) That, in principle, the proposals contained in paragraph 34 of the joint report be approved based on a storage lake of nine acres.

The estimate of the cost of the work covered by this and the preceding recommendations is set out in paragraph 35(a) of the joint report and involves an estimated expenditure of £2,412 per annum.

- (3) That the Borough Engineer and Medical Officer of Health be instructed to prepare a detailed scheme for final approval by the Council before it is submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for authorisation and loan sanction."

Before asking the Medical Officer and Borough Engineer to prepare a detailed scheme for final approval by the Council it was decided to make an approach to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to enquire whether it was likely that authorisation to proceed with such a scheme would be given. The outcome of this was reported by the Town Clerk to the Radipole Lake Development Committee on the 17th October, 1952, as follows:

- " (b) **Mosquito Control.** The Town Clerk reported that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government had intimated that consent could not be given at the present time for the Corporation to undertake the scheme of drainage and other works proposed for dealing with Mosquitoes, in the area of Radipole Lake and Lodmoor, but he had discussed with the Ministry the desirability of some works of drainage being undertaken at Lodmoor to reduce flooding as far as possible and to maintain the area available for grazing. The Ministry had asked to be supplied

with a report, explaining fully the reasons for the drainage proposals and their relation to the use of the land as grazing land and quite apart from the question of Mosquito control. The Town Clerk was authorised to supply the Ministry with such information."

At the end of the year negotiations on these lines were still in progress between the Corporation and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

CARAVANS AND CAMPING SITES

During the summer season, camping and caravanning was as popular in the Borough as in previous years. A considerable amount of time was again devoted to the inspection of Camping Sites, especially those in Preston where there is no main drainage system. I have referred to the lack of main drainage in this area earlier in my report, but I feel certain that when the main drainage system is provided for Preston, the proprietors of licensed caravan sites will be most anxious to provide modern sanitation at the earliest opportunity.

Licensees gave special attention to the hygiene of bucket closets but a few complaints were received regarding this method of sanitation. These complaints were generally based on an opinion that this form of closet accommodation was distasteful and such complaints can be well understood from visitors not used to rural sanitation.

It was necessary on only a few occasions to ask licensees to give even greater attention to this work but they attended without delay to all complaints brought to their attention by the Sanitary Inspectors. Only four informal notices had to be served in respect of matters requiring attention on licensed sites; otherwise all matters were discussed by the Sanitary Inspectors with the licensees at the time of inspection and were dealt with immediately. I am very pleased to record that licensees co-operated with the Health Department and did their best to maintain the highest possible standard of hygiene on their sites.

The removal of unauthorised sheds, shacks, old omnibus bodies and van bodies from sites resulted in a generally improved appearance of the sites during 1952 and licensees have since been very careful to avoid the erection of further unauthorised sheds, etc., or to allow on their sites any but bona fide trailer caravans. It appeared that the old and poorer types of caravan were gradually being "weeded out" and I was very pleased to see this trend as in the past much disappointment has been expressed by holidaymakers occupying them.

Two complaints were received from newly arrived visitors with regard to the dirty condition of the caravans which they had

booked. These complaints were brought to the attention of the caravan owners concerned and subsequently the caravans were thoroughly cleaned before the arrival of following visitors.

On one large licensed site the water supply pipes were extended and additional standpipes provided. A major scheme of land drainage was carried out on the same site and at the end of the year improvements to the camp roads were in progress.

A new cesspool was constructed at another existing site in the Preston area.

There was no increase in the number of permanent caravan residents on licensed sites and it appears to be the intention of most licensees to close down their camps entirely during the winter months if and when the few remaining residents leave.

Preston was again a popular area for organised camping under canvas. Most organisers contacted the Health Department before taking over their sites in order to discuss water supply and sanitary arrangements. Organised camping parties, again this year, attained a very high standard of hygiene. One minor infestation of fleas at one of these camps was dealt with satisfactorily by the Health Department.

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors made 162 inspections of caravan and camping sites. The great majority of these inspections were carried out in the summer season and again such work occupied a considerable proportion of their time during the busiest period of the year.

Two applications for renewal of licences to station caravans on individual sites were received during 1952. Both were granted for limited periods only.

One application for a licence to station and use a single caravan was also received. This application was not granted as proposals with regard to water supply and sanitation were not satisfactory.

FOOD HYGIENE

I mentioned in my Report for the previous year that it had been decided to carry out a Clean Food Campaign in the Borough and detailed the lines on which the Campaign would be conducted. A start was made by providing two "Clean Food" stands at the Weymouth and Portland Traders' Exhibition at the Sidney Hall, in November, 1951, and the interest shown by the general public in these stands was very encouraging. This led to the belief that the subject of "Clean Food" was one in which interest was great and it seemed likely that the campaign would receive support from both the food traders and public alike.

Handbills dealing with the subject and notices with regard to dogs in foodshops were distributed when inspections of food premises were carried out and it was arranged for a first series of lectures to be given in March, 1952, to the members of one section of the catering trade likely to provide the largest number of interested persons. The number attending the first lecture was only 13 and after that meeting a special letter was sent to every member of the organisation concerned asking that a special effort should be made to attend the lecture the following week. The attendance at the subsequent meeting was only nine and in view of this it was decided to advertise in the press inviting all food handlers and others interested in the subject to attend a discussion the following week on "Clean Food—the part of the Individual in the Clean Food Campaign."

Only 16 persons attended this meeting and in view of the poor response it was decided to discontinue the series of lectures.

This might appear to indicate a general lack of interest in "Clean Food" but strangely enough, when the Sanitary Inspectors carry out inspections of food premises and make suggestions in order to improve food hygiene their suggestions are listened to and are almost invariably adopted by the food trader or food handler concerned.

It was decided to pay special attention to food premises during the year, and as a result, 523 inspections were made. Wherever necessary the requirements of the food bye-laws were brought to the attention of proprietors and employees and notices required by the bye-laws to be exhibited in food premises were provided by the Department free of charge.

One problem met with again this year was the fact that employees taken on for the season in some instances had little knowledge of food hygiene and some useful work was accomplished in advising and instructing them on the spot in the elements of food hygiene.

It was necessary to serve only nine informal notices in respect of 43 items requiring attention under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, or the Food Bye-laws and I am glad to say it was not necessary to serve any statutory notices under this Act or the bye-laws. All the items were dealt with satisfactorily by the end of the year.

It is hoped that in the coming year, and especially during the summer season, the number of inspections of food premises will be maintained as in my opinion it is in this way that food hygiene and the need for even better standards can best be brought to the notice of the people most intimately concerned.

ICE CREAM

One hundred and seventy-five inspections were made of premises where ice cream was manufactured, stored or on sale to the public.

Seventy-four samples of ice cream were sent to the Laboratory for routine tests and results, as shown below, show room for improvement. It is proposed that the number of samples taken will be increased during 1953 and more time will be devoted by the Department to supervision of the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream.

Adverse samples were followed up by visits to the premises concerned and there was no lack of co-operation on the part of manufacturers and vendors to improve their standards where improvement was indicated.

At the end of the year there were 161 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream within the Borough. This figure includes ten premises where ice cream was manufactured.

Nature of Mix	No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Test Passed	Methylene Blue Test Failed	Grades			
				1	2	3	4
Heat treated	62	45	17	28	17	11	6
Cold Mix	9	7	2	3	4	1	1
Not known	3	3	—	2	1	—	—

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

(a) Heat treated

Number of samples taken	...	62	
Samples classified as Grade 1	...	28	72.5806% satisfactory
Samples classified as Grade 2	...	17	
Samples classified as Grade 3	...	11	27.419% unsatisfactory
Samples classified as Grade 4	...	6	

(b) Cold Mix

Number of samples taken	...	9	
Samples classified as Grade 1	...	3	77.77% satisfactory
Samples classified as Grade 2	...	4	
Samples classified as Grade 3	...	1	22.22% unsatisfactory
Samples classified as Grade 4	...	1	

(c) Not known

Number of samples taken	...	3	
Samples classified as Grade 1	...	2	} 100% satisfactory
Samples classified as Grade 2	...	1	
Samples classified as Grade 3	...	0	} 0% unsatisfactory
Samples classified as Grade 4	...	0	

MILK SUPPLIES

(1) The responsibility for registration of dairy farms and farmers and the supervision of milk production at farms remained with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, except insofar as the Regulations relate to diseases communicable to man.

At the end of the year entries on the Department's Registers were as follows :

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Distributors of milk with premises within the Borough	23
Distributors of milk with premises outside the Borough but retailing within the Borough	Nil
Dairy farms distributing from within the Borough	6
Dairy farms distributing from outside the Borough	2
Premises registered as Dairies	9

(2) Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949
Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

Dealers' licences to sell designated milk were granted as follows :

Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	11
Accredited Milk	...	...	...	1
Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	17
Tuberculin Tested Milk (Supplementary)	...	...	...	1

(3) Milk Sampling

(a) The number of samples of milk taken by the Department for bacteriological examination was 155. This shows an increase of 60 over the previous year. The number of samples of heat treated milk taken in the Borough by Sampling Officers of Dorset County Council was 213—an increase of 84 over the previous year. The Dorset County Council is the licensing authority for Dealers who pasteurise or sterilise milk.

There is one pasteurising plant within the Borough.

From the appended table of sampling results it is very pleasing to note that all heat-treated samples passed the tests. A total of 12 raw milk samples failed the methylene blue test and of these it will be seen that five were samples of Tuberculin Tested milk. These failures were brought to the attention of the persons concerned and subsequent samples proved to be satisfactory.

Fourteen samples of milk were taken for biological examination and all were negative for tuberculosis.

Details of samples taken are as follows :

Sample Designation	No. taken	Methylene Blue Test Satisfactory	Methylene Blue Test Unsatisfactory	Phosphatase Test Satisfactory	Phosphatase Test Unsatisfactory	Sample Void
Undesignated	48	44	4	—	—	—
T.T.	59	53	5	—	—	1
Accredited	3	—	3	—	—	—
T.T. Pasteurised	39	39	—	39	—	—
Pasteurised	219	177	—	219	—	42

Summary of Results

Total number of samples taken	...	...	368
Total number classed as satisfactory	...	...	313
Total number classed as unsatisfactory	...	...	12
Total number of void* samples	...	...	43

* Temperature of sample on arrival at Laboratory was over 65° F.

FOOD SUPPLIES

(1) MEAT INSPECTION

(i) **Dorchester Abattoir**—I mentioned in my report for 1951 that Weymouth Corporation had entered into a financial agreement with the Borough of Dorchester with regard to meat inspection duties at Dorchester Abattoir. These arrangements continued in 1952 and no Sanitary Inspectors from Weymouth carried out any meat inspection duties at the Abattoir during the year.

(ii) **Weymouth—Slaughterhouse/Bacon Factory.** Considerable alterations and improvements were carried out at the privately owned slaughterhouse/bacon factory in the town. The lairage, slaughter hall and hanging space were all increased in size and new large cold rooms were installed. Arrangements with regard to natural and artificial lighting were also improved.

Following these improvements a considerable increase in slaughtering has taken place. From statistics given below it will be seen that the number of animals slaughtered

during 1952 was more than double the number slaughtered in the previous year.

Since the structural improvements were completed slaughtering has taken place on two days each week whereas previously it had been carried out on only one day each week. It will be appreciated that this increase in slaughtering has resulted in more time being devoted by the Sanitary Inspectors to meat inspection. One Sanitary Inspector is now engaged on meat inspection for almost two full days every week.

(a) ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED

Cows	Other Cattle	Sheep	Calves	Pigs	Total
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3199	3199
(1951 — 1952)					

(b) CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

Number killed	...	...	...	3199
Number inspected	...	...	...	3199

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS

Whole carcasses	...	...	...	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	150
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	...	...	...	4.84%

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	9
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	456
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	...	...	4.78%

MEAT CONDEMNED AT SLAUGHTERHOUSE/BACON FACTORY

Disease	Weight (lbs.)
Tuberculosis	5598
Cirrhosis	277
Pleurisy and Pericarditis	383
Abscesses	244
Pneumonia	359
Nephritis	8
Peritonitis	16
Bruising	4
Cysts	4

MEAT CONDEMNED—SUMMARY

	Weight in lbs.
Tuberculosis	5598
Other Diseases	1295

Total weight condemned—3 tons, 1 cwt., 2 qtrs., 6 lbs.

No. of visits made to slaughterhouse—132.

(2) OTHER FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED**CANNED GOODS**

Meat	...	...	...	...	268 tins
Ham	...	...	...	...	116 tins
Chicken	...	...	...	...	8 tins
Fish	...	...	...	...	85 tins
Milk	...	...	...	...	36 tins
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	210 tins
Fruit	...	...	...	...	932 tins
Jam and Marmalade	...	...	...	...	76 tins
Soup	...	...	...	...	17 tins
Baby Food	...	...	...	...	9 tins
Brawn	...	...	...	...	4 tins
Jellied Veal	...	...	...	...	2 tins
Spaghetti	...	...	...	...	2 tins
Mincemeat	...	...	...	...	1 tin
Syrup	...	...	...	...	1 tin
Tongue	...	...	...	...	1 tin
Paste	...	...	...	...	1 tin
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	6 tins

MEAT.

Meat (Beef, Mutton, Pork and Veal)	...	...	...	...	145 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	99 lbs.
Sausages	...	...	...	...	47 lbs.
Ducks	...	...	...	...	3

FISH.

Mixed Fish	...	...	...	...	3 stones 3½ lbs. and 3 boxes
Crabs	...	...	...	...	73 lbs.

BOTTLED FOOD

Jam and Marmalade	...	...	...	...	3 pots
Pickled Onions	...	...	...	...	12 jars
Chutney	...	...	...	...	36 jars
Sandwich Spread	...	...	...	...	130 jars
Mincemeat	...	...	...	...	2 jars
Coffee	...	...	...	...	1 bottle
Marmite	...	...	...	...	2 pots
Paste	...	...	...	...	8 pots

OTHER FOODS

Biscuits	...	...	...	...	2 pkts.
Cornflour	...	...	...	...	1 pkt.
Oats	...	...	...	...	2 pkts.
Jelly	...	...	...	...	1 pkt.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	30 pkts.
Potatoes	...	...	...	...	74 lbs.
Rice	...	...	...	...	162 lbs.
Fish Cakes	...	...	...	...	24 lbs.
Butter	...	...	...	...	8 lbs., 1 oz.
Pastry	...	...	...	...	7 lbs.
Lentils	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Faggots	...	...	...	...	86
Swiss Rolls	...	...	...	...	2
Dates	...	...	...	...	6 boxes
Chocolate	...	...	...	...	5 lbs., 2 ozs.

RODENT CONTROL

Two Rodent Operatives were employed for the greater part of the year and statistics relating to the work carried out are given below.

The number of complaints received was 20 less than the previous year and there is no doubt that the service is of great benefit to the town in keeping down rats and mice.

It was not necessary to take any statutory action under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, during the year.

Number of complaints received re rats and mice	...	376
Number of premises visited for Survey	...	1332
Number of premises given first treatment	...	389
Number of premises given second treatment	...	106
Number of premises given third treatment	...	2
Number of premises given routine treatment	...	19
Number of premises given re-infestation treatment		10
Number of visits made (Survey and Treatment)	...	3615
Number of pre-baits laid	...	6579
Number of pre-baits taken	...	3964
Number of poison baits laid	...	1436
Number of poison baits taken	...	920

Sewer Rat Control

Two treatments of the sewers were carried out during the year. The methods employed were those recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. A summary of results of the second treatment is recorded below. Figures for the corresponding treatment carried out in September of the previous year are included for comparison.

September, 1952—Sewer Treatment No. 9

Section	No. of manholes examined	No. not baited	No. baited			Pre-bait taken	
				C.	P.	Total takes	No takes
Rodwell	108	1	107	30	1	31	76
Wyke Regis	247	10	237	17	19	36	201
Westham	197	0	197	44	0	44	153
Park	123	11	112	27	11	38	74
Town	56	5	51	17	7	24	27
Totals	731	27	704	135	38	173	531
Total Sept., 1951	728	27	701	106	86	192	509

Results indicate that the degree of infestation in the sewers of Rodwell and Town areas has remained fairly constant.

The infestation in Wyke Regis sewers has lessened considerably but in the Park and Westham districts slight increases have been recorded.

A test of ten per cent. of the sewer manholes in the Radipole

and Upwey/Broadwey areas were also carried out. No evidence of rat infestation was found.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS TAKEN UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936—SECTION 93.

I am pleased to report that it was not necessary to take legal proceedings under Section 93 of the above Act during the year. The Town Council authorised the service of eight statutory notices under this Section but it was necessary to serve only four of these.

In the remaining four instances it was not necessary to serve the statutory notices as the nuisances were abated before the notices could be issued.

SUPERVISION OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The supervision of public conveniences continued to be the responsibility of the Health Department.

Work proceeded on the new conveniences for both sexes at the Old Fire Station, St. Edmund Street, but was not completed by the end of the year.

Again this year a large amount of time was devoted to the control of public conveniences and 659 inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspectors, as against 514 inspections during the previous year.

At the end of the summer season the Health Committee considered the provision of additional conveniences on the sea front as at the height of the 1952 season, it was apparent that existing facilities were inadequate. No decision had been arrived at by the end of the year but a scheme had been prepared for a new convenience for females on the sea front and this was still under consideration at the end of the year.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Reason for Inspection	No. of premises visited	No. of visits including re-visits	Nuisances or defects found	Nuisances or defects remedied
Premises under P.H.A.	349	1114	189	142
Drainage Work Only				
(a) New Buildings	332	505	—	—
(b) Existing Buildings	75	359	22	22
Camping Sites, Vans, Tents	13	162	4	4
Food Premises	230	523	43	45
Dairies, etc.	9	66	—	—
Factories Act	61	123	6	2
Shops Act	57	166	—	—
Public Conveniences	45	659	—	—
Number of complaints received—271				

OTHER VISITS

Visits for the purpose of overcrowding and re-housing applications	...	...	...	...	432
Visits to houses of T.B. patients	...	...	...	...	49
Visits to houses for the purpose of Housing Act, 1936, (Houses already subject to Clearance Orders or Demolition Orders)	...	...	...	...	325
Visits to houses following applications for Improvement Grants (Housing Act, 1949)	...	...	...	...	2
Visits to offensive trade and marine store premises	...	...	...	...	4
Visits re smoke abatement	...	...	...	...	51
Visits to mosquito and midge breeding grounds	...	...	...	...	179
Inspections of places of entertainment	...	...	...	...	17
Inspections of licensed premises (public houses and bars)	...	...	...	...	26
Visits to Piggeries	...	...	...	...	17
Visits by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	109
Visits under National Assistance Act, 1948	...	...	...	...	17
Visits to Schools	...	...	...	...	26
Visits to Corporation Controlled Tip	...	...	...	...	19
Inspection of Sales Vans	...	...	...	...	4
Inspection of Rivers and Streams	...	...	...	...	39
Visits under Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	16
Visits to Stable	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	270

A brief summary of some of the more important defects remedied is given below.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	35
Eaves guttering and rainwater pipes repaired, cleansed or renewed	...	...	...	...	10
Walls rendered, pointed or repaired	...	...	...	...	14
Plasterwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	16
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	12
Firegrates and ranges repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Chimney Stacks repaired or re-built	...	...	...	...	3
Drainage systems repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	18
W.C. cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Sanitary accommodation insufficient	...	...	...	...	1
Cesspools emptied after notices	...	...	...	...	9
Sink waste pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Animals kept in unsatisfactory condition	...	...	...	...	3
Nuisance from smoke and effluvia	...	...	...	...	2
Accumulation of manure and refuse	...	...	...	...	4
Drains cleared after notice	...	...	...	...	4
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	10
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Choked ditches cleansed	...	...	...	...	3
Dirty Sanitary Conveniences cleansed	...	...	...	...	3
Soil pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Other miscellaneous defects remedied	...	...	...	...	6

(b) SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED

	NOTICES			
	Served		Complied	
	Informal	Statutory	Informal	Statutory
Public Health Act, 1936	98	4	86	2
Shops Act, 1950	—	—	—	—
Food & Drugs Act, 1938	9	—	11	—
Factories Act, 1937	6	—	2	—
Housing Act	—	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Twenty-three visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors in connection with the investigation of infectious diseases and five visits in connection with Food Poisoning cases.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Number of houses treated for disinfection (infectious diseases)	36
Number of rooms involved	59
Number of houses treated for disinfestation	37
Number of rooms involved	127
Number of articles of bedding, etc., disinfected	1608
Number of articles destroyed	2

FACTORIES ACT, 1937**Survey of action during year.**

(1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	20	8	4	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	135	114	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers Premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	155	122	6	—

(2) Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	No. of Cases in which Defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Reme- died	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—	I	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	I	—	—	I	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outworkers) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient ...	2	—	—	I	—
(b) Unsuitable or de- fective ...	I	—	—	I	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Vent not fixed in W.C. ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	6	2	—	4	—

(3) Outworkers

(a) Number of lists received from employers ...	5
(b) Number of employees concerned ...	—
(c) Number of outworkers involved ...	5
(d) Number of Outworkers living outside the Borough ...	—
(e) Number of lists received from outside Authorities ...	9
(f) Number of outworkers involved ...	75

(4) Total inspections for all purposes (including outworkers).

No. of premises visited	No. of visits including re-visits	Defects found	Defects remedied
61	122	6	2

BOROUGH OF WEYMOUTH AND MELCOMBE
REGIS.



**METEOROLOGICAL
DEPARTMENT**

*Summary for the Year
1952*

Lat.— $50^{\circ} 36' 20''$ N. Long.— $2^{\circ} 26' 50''$ W

21 feet above Sea Level.

J. N. HAMBLY, M.B.E.,
Lt.Cdr. R.N. (Ret.)
Borough Meteorologist

Meteorological Station,
Weymouth

Remarks.

GENERAL

The year 1952, as a whole, was of an average. Temperature was one degree below average whilst rainfall and sun were slightly above.

RAINFALL

A total of 29.47 inches was recorded for the year.

No excessive falls occurred and only on one day was more than an inch recorded, this was on the 12th October (1.06 inches).

The driest month was July with .57 inches and the wettest October with 4.68 inches.

July had a dry spell of 20 days without measurable rain.

Among the dry periods of recent years were the following :—

- 1939 May 19th—June 10th, 22 days.
- 1942 April 14th—May 9th, 26 days.
- 1945 February 20th—March 15th, 24 days.
- 1949 June 8th—July 14th, 36 days.

Heavy daily rainfalls included the following :—

1945	October 23rd	...	...	31.6 m.m.
1946	August 9th	...	...	32.5 m.m.
1949	September 21st	...	...	49.2 m.m.
1950	July 3rd	...	...	70.1 m.m.

(One inch is the equivalent of 25.5 m.m.)

TEMPERATURE

Although the monthly temperatures were rather erratic it levelled itself off for the year. September and November were three degrees below the average, and April, May and June two degrees above.

The highest recorded was 87° on the 22nd July and the lowest 25° on the 27th January.

SUNSHINE

The total hours of Bright Sunshine was 1895.5, hours being 104 hours above the average.

METEOROLOGICAL ABSTRACT.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Highest Shade Temperature (°Fah)	...	86	86	83	77	87
Lowest Shade Temperature (°Fah)	...	19	29	22	28	25
Mean Maximum Temperature (°Fah)	...	59.0	60.6	—	57.5	57.8
Mean Minimum Temperature (°Fah)	...	46.9	46.8	46.2	46.4	45.8
Mean Temperature (°Fah)	...	52.9	53.7	—	52.9	51.8
Total Rainfall (Inches)	...	30.84	27.5	35.46	40.3	29.36
Hours of Bright Sunshine	...	1626.1	1877.5	1824.0	1829.0	1885.3
Number of Days with Sunshine...	...	280	301	286	306	312
Greatest Daily Amount of Sunshine (Hours)	15.5	15.1	15.5	14.9	15.0	15.0
Highest Barometer Reading (Inches)	...	30.688	30.787	30.633	30.622	30.830
Lowest Barometer Reading (Inches)	...	28.812	28.900	29.10	28.58	29.080

PRESSURE (Inches) 9-00 a.m.

Barometer Readings at 0900 hours G.M.T. corrected for Temperature and Altitude

1952	Month	Mean Inches	Highest Inches	Date	Lowest Inches	Date	Relative Humidity %	
	January	...	30.64	7th	29.18	31st	...	74.29
	February	...	30.59	11th	29.14	1st	...	75.6
	March	...	30.83	2nd	29.83	29th	...	81.61
	April	...	30.39	3rd	29.45	21st	...	73.46
	May	...	30.54	23rd	29.30	4th	...	77.2
	June	...	30.40	4th	29.65	14th	...	71.1
	July	...	30.34	10th	29.93	28th	...	71.3
	August	...	30.29	22nd	29.44	9th	...	80.70
	September	...	30.38	16th	29.16	30th	...	72.5
	October	...	30.38	8th	29.08	13th	...	77.1
	November	...	30.35	14th	29.27	26th	...	79.2
	December	...	30.62	6th & 7th	29.08	13th	...	81.9

RAINFALL

1952	TOTAL FALL		Percentage of Average	Days of 0.2 m. or more		Wet Days of 1.0 m. or more	Greatest fall in 24 hours		Date
	Inches	m m					inches		
January	2.29	58	94	17	14	0.30	2nd		
February	.59	15	27	8	4	0.18	11th		
March	3.06	78	149	16	11	0.80	6th		
April	1.64	42	99	14	9	0.36	5th		
May	2.47	63	152	11	10	0.79	1st		
June	1.25	32	70	9	7	0.56	12th		
July	.57	14	32	6	4	0.30	5th		
August	1.91	49	89	13	7	0.66	8th		
September	4.00	102	190	17	13	0.85	9th		
October	4.68	119	128	16	13	1.06	12th		
November	4.06	103	131	17	14	0.81	27th		
December	2.95	75	85	21	15	0.63	18th		
Year	29.47	750	103	165	121	1.06	12th Oct.		

Average Yearly Rainfall—29.25 inches

TEMPERATURE OF THE AIR (Fah.)

1952 Month	9 a.m. Mean	Max. Mean	Max. & Min.		Difference from Average	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
			Min.	Mean					
January	42.10	47.32	35.32	41.32	-1.0	54	10th	25	27th
February	42.44	47.48	33.90	40.69	-0.9	53	29th	27	13th
March	46.28	51.00	41.16	46.08	+1.9	58	22nd	30	28th
April	52.03	56.85	43.53	50.19	+2.2	74	18th	31	1st & 3rd
May	57.11	63.32	49.12	56.22	+2.1	77	19th	44	7th
June	61.66	66.56	51.93	59.24	+0.6	80	30th	42	4th
July	66.58	71.70	57.03	64.36	+2.0	87	22nd	46	16th
August	64.10	70.80	56.70	63.75	+0.6	76	26th	49	21st
September	57.70	63.50	48.50	56.00	-3.2	73	2nd	39	18th
October	54.55	58.64	47.22	52.93	-0.7	62	3rd	34	15th
November	44.33	49.22	38.50	43.86	-3.6	59	1st	29	24th
December	43.19	47.35	37.63	42.49	-1.2	53	19th	30	15th
Year	52.66	57.81	45.42	51.61	-0.1	87	22nd July	25	27th Jan.

THE WINDS

Observed daily at 0900 G.M.T. to 8 points of the Compass.

MONTH.	DIRECTION.								
	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm
January	1	3	3	1	1	4	6	6	6
February	1	7	3	—	—	3	3	3	9
March	—	9	6	3	—	3	5	1	4
April	1	5	2	1	1	8	5	2	5
May	—	2	5	6	3	4	1	3	7
June	2	1	3	3	1	6	10	1	3
July	1	5	3	—	1	2	13	3	3
August	5	4	1	2	—	12	4	1	2
September	2	9	1	—	1	3	7	5	2
October	—	4	6	2	3	5	3	5	3
November	4	5	1	2	—	4	5	3	6
December	2	5	1	4	—	3	8	4	4
Year	19	59	35	24	11	57	70	37	54

BRIGHT SUNSHINE.

1952	Month	Actual Sunshine (Hours)	Percentage of Average	Greatest Daily Amount (Hours)	Date	Number of Days with Sunshine Recorded	Sunless Days	Cloud Amount 1—8 (9 a.m.)
	January	... 100.5	150	7.3	20th	23	8	4.25
	February	... 100.1	119	8.6	12th	24	5	4.9
	March	... 104.9	75.4	9.2	27th	22	9	6.35
	April	... 193.9	103	12.0	29th	29	1	4.3
	May	... 249.5	113	14.5	18th & 22nd	31	0	4.61
	June	... 259.2	112	15.0	30th	29	1	4.0
	July	... 216.4	96	13.5	16th	30	1	4.1
	August	... 215.2	100	12.4	28th	31	0	4.7
	September	... 185.6	110	11.9	1st	29	1	4.1
	October	... 117.7	104	9.7	8th	28	3	5.19
	November	... 72.4	90	8.0	3rd	16	14	5.43
	December	... 80.1	130	6.9	2nd	20	11	5.19
	Year	... 1895.5	108.5	15.0	30th June	312	54	—

Average Yearly Sunshine—1787.6 hours

WEYMOUTH SUNSHINE HOURS RECORD SINCE 1895.

Year	Hours	Year	Hours	Year	Hours	Year	Hours
1895 ...	1953.7	1910 ...	1693.7	1925 ...	1710.1	1940 ...	1883.3
1896 ...	1904.0	1911 ...	2090.9	1926 ...	1554.4	1941 ...	1669.0
1897 ...	1827.5	1912 ...	1582.4	1927 ...	1692.7	1942 ...	1663.0
1898 ...	1828.4	1913 ...	1583.7	1928 ...	1898.9	1943 ...	1769.0
1899 ...	2030.2	1914 ...	1826.8	1929 ...	2024.1	1944 ...	1741.1
1900 ...	1624.7	1915 ...	1729.8	1930 ...	1803.7	1945 ...	1564.9
1901 ...	1675.9	1916 ...	1677.5	1931 ...	1582.8	1946 ...	1648.2
1902 ...	1421.4	1917 ...	1653.5	1932 ...	1554.4	1947 ...	1626.2
1903 ...	1554.0	1918 ...	1804.9	1933 ...	1987.3	1948 ...	1877.5
1904 ...	1675.6	1919 ...	1803.5	1934 ...	1807.0	1949 ...	2055.3
1905 ...	1706.9	1920 ...	1523.4	1935 ...	1706.2	1950 ...	1820.6
1906 ...	1908.3	1921 ...	1934.6	1936 ...	1549.3	1951 ...	1828.3
1907 ...	1784.1	1922 ...	1748.0	1937 ...	1628.5	1952 ...	1895.5
1908 ...	1875.9	1923 ...	1695.6	1938 ...	1646.6		
1909 ...	1938.3	1924 ...	1687.6	1939 ...	1786.4		

Average—1787.6 hours

Greatest amount of sun in one year—2090.9 in 1911

Least sunshine in one year—1421.4 in 1902

